

Psychology

Psychology

Associate Professor: Jennifer Daniels

Assistant Professors: Britt Florkiewicz, Robert Miller, Allison Sonia, and Nikki Yonts

Psychology, the study of behavior and mental processes, is a social, behavioral, and cognitive science. The psychology major at Lyon introduces students to the empirical study of human and animal behavior and such diverse mental faculties and processes as perception, memory, intelligence, problem solving, and decision making. Students are also introduced to a wide range of current professional issues and responsibilities regarding both the academic discipline and the applied profession of psychology.

All psychology students develop an understanding of the social, psychological, and biological causes of behavior and an understanding of the effects of these factors on a variety of psychological phenomena, including interpersonal relationships, human growth and development, learning, personality, and abnormal behavior. In addition, they are introduced to the application of basic psychological principles in a variety of endeavors, including counseling and other areas of clinical psychology and education.

There are two major offerings from the Psychology program, a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Arts. Majors who pursue a B.S. will become skilled researchers and wise consumers of scientific psychological research, designed to prepare students for graduate study in psychology or related fields. Students who pursue the B.A. major tend to be interested in applied aspects of the discipline and will gain practical experience in the field through a supervised internship in their junior or senior year. Both majors are designed to prepare students for work in psychology and related fields. Additionally, a background in psychology is appropriate and valuable for students planning to enter such professions as business, education, law, medicine, social work, and the ministry.

Note: To graduate with a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree from Lyon College, students must successfully complete a minimum of 120 semester credit hours comprised of our required core curriculum (44-48 hours, the requirements of at least one major (credit hours vary per major), and a selection of our Liberal Arts electives. They must also earn at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average for all work taken at Lyon College and a 2.00 cumulative grade point average in their major, minor, and concentration.

Psychology Degrees

Psychology Major (BA)

Summary of Requirements for a Major in Psychology (BA)

Item #	Title	Credits
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSY 235	Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences	3
PSY 240	Introduction to Research Methods	3
PSY 332	History and Systems of Psychology	3
PSY 341	Professional Development in Psychology	1
PSY 443	Senior Internship	3
PSY 490	Senior Exit Survey in Psychology	0
	Five Pillars of Knowledge Courses (PSY)	15
	Psychology Upper Electives (300 & 400 level classes)	12
	Psychology Elective (200 level)	3

CORE CURRICULUM

Item #	Title	Credits
	Core Curriculum Requirements (In addition to Major hours)	44-48
	Total Credits	90-94

Five Pillars of Knowledge Courses (PSY)

Item #	Title	Credits
PSY 225	Social Psychology	3
PSY 290	Human Development	3
PSY 203	Introduction to Biological Psychology	3
PSY 205	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology	3
PSY 208	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	3

Psychology Upper Electives (300 & 400 level classes)

Psychology Elective (200 level)

Psychology Major (BS)

Summary of Requirements for a Major in Psychology (BS)

Item #	Title	Credits
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSY 235	Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences	3
PSY 240	Introduction to Research Methods	3
PSY 332	History and Systems of Psychology	3
PSY 340	Intermediate Research Methods	3
PSY 341	Professional Development in Psychology	1
PSY 485	Senior Thesis	3
PSY 490	Senior Exit Survey in Psychology	0
	Five Pillars of Knowledge Courses (PSY)	15
	Psychology Upper Electives (300 & 400 level classes)	12
	Psychology Elective (200 level)	3

CORE CURRICULUM

Item #	Title	Credits
	Core Curriculum Requirements (In addition to Major hours)	44-48
	Total Credits	93-97

Five Pillars of Knowledge Courses (PSY)

Item #	Title	Credits
PSY 225	Social Psychology	3
PSY 290	Human Development	3
PSY 203	Introduction to Biological Psychology	3
PSY 205	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology	3
PSY 208	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	3

Psychology Upper Electives (300 & 400 level classes)

Psychology Elective (200 level)

Psychology Minor

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The psychology minor is a course of study designed as a second field for students who wish to develop an understanding of the scientific study of behavior and the mind.

Summary of Requirements for a Minor in Psychology

Item #	Title	Credits
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology	3
	Five Pillars of Knowledge Courses (PSY)	15
PSY 490	Senior Exit Survey in Psychology	0
	Total Credits	18

Five Pillars of Knowledge Courses (PSY)

Item #	Title	Credits
PSY 225	Social Psychology	3
PSY 290	Human Development	3
PSY 203	Introduction to Biological Psychology	3
PSY 205	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology	3
PSY 208	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	3

Psychology (PSY) Courses

PSY 101: Introduction to Psychology

An overview of the scientific study of behavior, and its causes, prediction, and control.

Credits 3

PSY 182: Topics in Psychology

Examination of a selected area of psychological research or applied psychology.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 203: Introduction to Biological Psychology

Examination of the underlying brain mechanisms responsible for behavior. Topics include research methods used to study the brain, functional organization of the nervous system, properties of neurons, sensory and motor systems, and neural mechanisms related to memory, language, emotion, and intelligence.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 205: Introduction to Abnormal Psychology

Examination of the definition and etiology of major types of psychological disorders from the perspective of several psychological theories. Attention is given to their diagnosis, assessment, treatment, and related ethical concerns.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 208: Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

The intent of this course is to introduce the basic concepts and findings of cognitive psychology, including, but not limited to, the topics of perception, attention, motor control, learning, memory, language, categorization, imagery, judgment and decision-making, and problem-solving. Cognition will be discussed from the perspectives of information processing and cognitive neuroscience.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 210: Cultural Psychology

This course seeks to help students develop an understanding and valuing of diversity, based on the principles of awareness, knowledge and skills as they relate to the areas of worldview, identity, and acculturation. Student will be able to articulate differences among cultural communities, whether of ethnicity, race, religion, gender or socioeconomic status, is critical to understanding attitudes, beliefs, and behavior.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 220: Psychology of Women and Gender

Survey of theory and research on the meaning of gender and its impact on women's development.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 225: Social Psychology

A holistic approach to the study of individuals interacting with other individuals and groups within social, psychological, and cultural environments.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 235: Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences

An introduction to descriptive and inferential techniques for analyzing research data. Topics covered include central tendency, variability, distributions, Z-scores, analysis of variance, correlation, regression, and nonparametric tests of significance.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

MTH 101, MTH 103, or MTH 105, and PSY 101

PSY 240: Introduction to Research Methods

Study of research methods in the behavioral sciences. Students are introduced to basic design and practical procedures in carrying out research, as well as ethical considerations in gathering data.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 235

PSY 282: Special Topics

Examination of a selected area of psychological research or applied psychology.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 290: Human Development

Study of the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development of the individual from birth through adulthood. (Same as EDU 290)

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 303: Psychology of Parenting

This course explores the psychology of the parent-child relationship, focusing specifically on parenting. The course will examine and discuss models of parenting, factors that predict parenting behavior, the scientific basis of effective parenting and discipline, and the impact that parenting has on development across the lifespan.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 305: Child Psychopathology

In this course, psychological disorders that develop in childhood and adolescence are examined, including autism spectrum disorders, ADHD, learning and cognitive disabilities, and behavioral disorders. In addition, the course explores issues of risk and resilience, interventions and treatments, and the controversies and ethical issues surrounding diagnosis, classification, and treatment of disorders in children and adolescents.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 310: Child and Adolescent Development

Examination of the development processes from conception through adolescence. Topics include physical, cognitive, social, and personality development from the perspective of the major theories of the field. In addition, students will focus on cultural and educational issues that arise from the study of the development of children and adolescents.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 312: Sensation & Perception

A biopsychological analysis of sensory systems and the organization of sensory input into perception. This course covers the five primary sensory / perceptual systems: vision, audition, body sensation, olfaction, and gustation. It is strongly encouraged that students have completed a lab science before attempting this course.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 318: Biological Psychology

Examination of the underlying brain mechanisms responsible for behavior. Topics include research methods used to study the brain, functional organization of the nervous system, properties of neurons, sensory and motor systems, and neural mechanisms related to memory, language, emotion, and intelligence.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 332: History and Systems of Psychology

Study of the evolution of modern psychology from its origins in philosophy and natural science to contemporary thought in psychology.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 335: Abnormal Psychology

Examination of the definition and etiology of major types of psychological disorders from the perspective of several psychological theories. Attention is given to their diagnosis, assessment, treatment, and related ethical concerns.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 338: Personality Psychology

Study of contemporary theory, research, and assessment in personality.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 339: Learning and Cognition

Examination of the major theories of learning and cognition and identification of a variety of research tools useful in understanding thinking, learning, and teaching.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 340: Intermediate Research Methods

Continuation of the statistical concepts acquired in PSY 235 and experimental methods acquired in PSY 240. Students will learn the advanced tools needed to engage in and evaluate research specific to the social sciences. Specifically, they will design and collect data using a variety of research methods and analyze data employing advanced statistical analysis.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 235 and 240

PSY 341: Professional Development in Psychology

This course focuses on planning for a future with an undergraduate degree in psychology and encourages students to research personal career development and the contemporary workforce. Students will be exposed to information designed to assist in the clarification, selection, and pursuit of a career in psychology or a related field.

Credits 1

Prerequisites

Officially declared psychology major and completion of PSY 101 or permission of instructor.

PSY 342: Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

The intent of this course is to introduce the basic concepts and findings of cognitive psychology, including, but not limited to, the topics of perception, attention, motor control, learning, memory, language, categorization, imagery, judgment and decision-making, and problem-solving. Cognition will be discussed from the perspectives of information processing and cognitive neuroscience.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 345: Human Sexuality Across the Lifespan

Examination of human sexuality from psychological, biological, behavioral, social, and historical perspectives.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 353: Introduction to Evolutionary Psychology

This course provides an in-depth exploration of the phylogenetic origins of human nature, specifically addressing the presence and nature of evolved psychological mechanisms that solve challenges relevant to survival and reproduction in ancestral environments. Topics covered will include competition, cooperation, natural and sexual selection, inclusive fitness, status, intersexual conflict, kinship, mating strategies, disease and predator avoidance, food acquisition and selection, and more. Throughout coverage of these topics, the role of theoretical perspectives and experimental evidence will be particularly emphasized.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 382: Topics in Psychology

Examination of a selected area of psychological research or applied psychology.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 382: Special Topics in Psychology (FMS) (The Psychology of Film; The Psychology of Mass Culture; The Psychology of Propaganda)

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 101

PSY 399: Psychology International Studies Course: Variable Topics

Study of varying topics in psychology. Includes a 2-week Nichols trip. Prerequisites will vary.

Credits 1

PSY 410: Psychological Testing

A study of the nature and theory of individual and group tests of intelligence, personality, interests and attitudes.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 235 and PSY 240

PSY 443: Senior Internship

A capstone course for psychology majors. Students will gain field experience through direct, supervised contact with professionals in psychology and related fields. In addition to on-site responsibilities, students will write a comprehensive paper integrating the field experience and psychological theory and formally present the paper in an open forum. Prerequisites/corequisites: PSY 235, 240, 332, 340, and permission of instructor.

Credits 3

PSY 450: Independent Study

Study of selected topics in psychology.

Prerequisites

Permission of instructor and junior or senior standing.

PSY 485: Senior Thesis

A seminar-based capstone course for psychology majors. Students will design and conduct individual research projects that may be suitable for submission to journals or presentations at conferences. Students are guided through the research process on a topic of their choice, designing a study, gathering and analyzing data, and writing the results in an APA-formatted research report. Prerequisites/corequisites: PSY 235, PSY 240, PSY 340, and permission of instructor.

Credits 3

PSY 486: Senior Thesis II

A continuation of PSY 485. Students can continue to work on research they began in PSY 485.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

PSY 485 and permission of instructor.

PSY 490: Senior Exit Survey in Psychology

This course will provide graduating seniors the opportunity to provide valuable feedback about their experiences in the psychology program. This course does not meet throughout the semester, and instead only requires students to – before finals week – take a senior exit survey online which will assess knowledge of concepts, theories, and principles of psychology, relevant to the primary disciplines within psychology (such as social psychology, biological psychology, developmental psychology, and abnormal psychology) as well as research methods and statistics. Also, the senior exit survey will provide students with the opportunity to provide feedback regarding their own learning, engagement, challenges, and successes during their time in the program. This survey provides the faculty in the psychology program with invaluable data as to the strengths and areas for development and growth within the psychology program and curriculum. Must be taken pass/fail.

Credits 0

Prerequisites

Senior standing